as reported in the Hindu dated 12th April, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the ZSI has not made any serious efforts to complete the task, till date;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the further steps taken by Government to complete the projects?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Government of India had directed ZSI in 1987 to conduct and complete the status survey of endangered 81 species of mammals, 47 of birds, 15 of reptiles, 3 of amphibians and a large number of butterflies, moths and beetles. The studies on status survey of 11 endangered species have already been completed. Further, studies on 3 more endangered species (Chinkara, Desert Cat, Western Tragopan) have recently been completed. In addition to this, studies on 9 species (Birgus latro, Kiang, Himalayan marmot, Lion tailed Macaque, Rhesus Macaque, Hanuman Langur, Nilgiril Thar, Irawady Dolphin, Giant Squirrel) are in progress. Efforts have already been made as indicated above and the project is progressing.

Tiger Trail to stop poaching

1824. PFOF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Tiger Trail a unique programme, Government have stopped poaching in Periyar Tiger Reserve;

(b) if so, the details of the programme; and

(c) whether Government would implement the same in other States also where forest land is in abundance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The "Periyar Tiger Trail" Programme is an Eco-tourism initiate developed in Periyar Tiger Rserve under the India Eco-development Project, which gives visitors to the park rewarding experience through the services of local unemployed youths, who are fully conversant with the park. This project has reprotedly reduced poaching in the area.

(c) Government of India is fostering such site-specific eco-tourism models as part of eco-development around Protected Areas.